



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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(UT-070)

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JAN 11 2001

Mr. Steven E. Kochevar, P. E.
Mine Planning Administrator
Interwest Mining Company
One Utah Center, Suite 2000
Salt Lake City, Utah 84140-0200

Re: Modification to Resource Recovery and Protection Plan (R2P2), 15th East Longwall
Panel, North Rilda Canyon Area, Deer Creek Mine.

EX-1015/018
COMM
Fax PFO

Dear Mr. Kochevar:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) received on November 8, 2000, a request to modify the R2P2 at the subject mine. The request is for approving the location of the 15th East longwall set-up rooms and bleeder entries at the Deer Creek Mine. The area in question is located in Federal coal lease U-024317, Blind Canyon Seam.

Interwest requests that the development of the 15th East gateroad entries be halted and the longwall set-up entries be driven at crosscut #44. Interwest reports a number of adverse geologic conditions that have shown that the 15th East longwall panel cannot extend further east and still have minable coal.

On November 8, 2000, a BLM representative inspected the 15th East gateroad area in response to your request. The low coal from a sandstone channel system between crosscuts 44 and 49 were noted. The large roll in the seam and the soft floor conditions past crosscut 52 were observed. In addition, oxidized coal, weathered roof, and a continuation of the soft floor conditions were noted in the 200-foot entry advance beyond the large roll. The conditions observed in the area were as indicated in your request.

The sandstone channel system encountered at crosscut 44, 15th East gate entry, is the northeast extension of the same channel encountered in the 14th East gate entry. With low coal from the channel scouring evident in both gateroads, we are in agreement that the low coal zone would likely traverse across the 15th East panel and the longwall would have to cut into this roof channel for nearly 500 feet. We also agree that the predicted ash content of the coal would increase beyond acceptable limits. In addition, the large roll at crosscut 52 will preclude the retreat of the longwall machinery over this steep grade with a soft floor and the evidence of oxidized coal beyond crosscut 54 will make further longwall panel length unlikely. The combination of the conditions has

made longwall panel extraction beyond crosscut 44 not possible under coal quality limitations and machinery limitations and hence we concur with the modification.

The BLM has determined that the proposed modification to the R2P2 complies with the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended, the regulations at 43 CFR 3480, the lease terms and conditions, and maximum economic recovery of the Federal coal will be achieved. Interwest's proposal to begin the 15th East longwall retreat at crosscut 44 is approved as submitted. This approval confirms verbal approval given during the inspection.

If you have any questions, please contact Stephen Falk of my staff at (435) 636-3600.

Sincerely,

Richard L. Manus

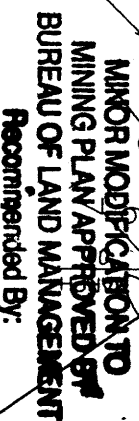
Richard L. Manus
Field Manager

Enclosure

Approved Mine Map

cc: UT-935, SD, Utah (w/encl.)
Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining
1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801 (w/encl.)
Energy West Mining Company
P. O. Box 310
Huntington, Utah 84528 (w/encl.)

- Roof Sandstones
- Roof Mudstones
- Mudstone Cap Rock under Sandstone
- Channel or Scour Margin with Dip Direction
- Roof Fall



Recommended By:

14th East

Mining Engineering

(Date)

15th East Proposed Longwall Setup

and Bleeder Entries

APPROVED

DEER CREEK MINE - 15TH EAST LW PANEL
INTAKE & BELT ENTRY
GEOLOGIC INFORMATION & ASH PROJECTION

DRAWN BY: *KEN FLECK*

ENCLOSURE 1

Area Managers

Dates:

DATE: **NOVEMBER 7, 2000** SHEET **1** OF **1** REV

REV